



Thule Times



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 17

June 2002

Commanders Action Line

Call ext 3400 if you
have questions
or comments about
Thule.

Congratulations Space Command Award Winners

Small Base Chapel of
the Year - Thule AB
&
Chaplain Service
NCO of the Year -
SSgt Ben Trevino

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Commander's Trophy Points Update

MA: 640
DO: 465
SF: 355
Det 3: 25

A Special Thanks

By Lt Col Karen Love
109SPTG/CC

To all Thule AB mem-
bers,

On behalf of the 109th Airlift Wing Commander, Col Max Della Pia, the 109AW thanks each and every one of you for the special handling and care you provided SMSgt Joseph Butler. The 109AW has been flying in Greenland since the late 1970s. We have a proud history and tradition in Greenland flying our LC-130H Skibirds on the Greenland Ice Cap and Sea Ice. We are humbled and honored with the special care you provided our fallen member. Thanks for helping us in our time of need.

Joe was an Instructor at the 109AW Arctic Aircraft Recovery School, a school he founded so that maintainers would learn the skills needed to survive on the "Ice" while recovering a broken airplane. He died serving his country by serving the men and women of the 109th Airlift Wing.

We have learned numerous lessons and continue to learn from Sergeant Butler's death. We, the 109th Airlift Wing, have learned what a profes-



SMSgt Joseph Butler had served as an instructor for the "Kool School" and made many trips to Greenland and Thule AB. He was a member of the 109th Airlift Wing stationed in Schenectady, New York.

sional, outstanding organization Thule Air Base continues to be. We thank you each and every one of you for all the care you gave our fallen member. We salute you!

Commander's Corner



By Col Craig Whitehead 12SWS/CC

This will be the last publication of the Thule Times during my assignment. Therefore, I want to take the opportunity to let each of you to know that it has been an honor and privilege to serve with you for the past year. I have had experiences at Thule I will never forget--the flood and the fire come to mind first. It was these two experiences that I feel really brought us together initially as "Team Thule." Because we continued to work together long after the flood and fire we were able to make Thule a better place. So, although the flood and the fire may come to mind first, my most lasting memory will be of the wonderful people that worked together to not only get the mission done but to make things better. I really do feel that Thule is a better place because you worked to make it that way. I want to thank each of you for the outstanding way you served your country, for the sacrifices you made, and most importantly for the selfless efforts you made day in and day out. God bless and please keep in touch.

H₂O Happenings

By Lena Tarpgaard Madsen GC/CEE

The purpose of this article is to inform the people at Thule Air Base about the status on the water filters mounted in the beginning of 2002.

To offer filtered drinking water to the people at Thule Air Base, carbon filters were mounted at 22 public locations. At the same time, bacteriological testing of the filtered drinking water was initiated.

The water filters have now

been tested and the results show that this type of filter is unsuitable for Thule Air Base, as the performed bacteriological tests show that the quality of the filtered drinking water does not meet the regulatory bacteriological standards.

All the water filters have consequently been dismantled.

As the water filters were mounted on the water main before the drinking water fountains, the fountains have been closed while the sanitary tests of the water filters and the filtered drinking water have been ongoing.

The drinking water fountains were reopened as soon as the water filters were demounted and the drinking water quality showed no signs of bacteriological contamination.

Once again it should be emphasized that the routine bacteriological samplings show **no signs** of contamination in the base water main supply system.

If you have any questions about this information, or if you have other questions regarding the drinking water, please contact 12 SWS/SGB at ext. 2782 or GC/CEE at ext. 3319/2698.

Julemand Check Presentation

In early May, Cmdr Holmer Sogaard, Danish Liaison Officer, traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark to present the Julemand Check to his Royal Highness, Crown Prince Frederik and Ms.

Mimi Jakobsen, Chairwoman, Danish Save the Children. The check, which was for \$11,000, will fund a children's center in Qaanaaq, Greenland, a village miles north of Thule.



Airfield Ops Captures Annual Award

By Capt Sarah Geiger 12SWS/CCE

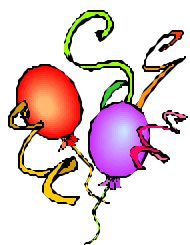
The 12 SWS Airfield Operations Flight recently captured the Air Force Space Command Airfield Operations Flight Complex of the Year award. Colonel Whitehead presented Capt Suicu and members of the Airfield Operations Flight their plaque during the April Commander's Call.

This award is presented for a combination of airfield management and air traffic control facilities when they interact in the achievement of one, or a combination of the following areas: a notable contribution to quality, safety or procedural development of the airfield and air traffic control system; outstanding handling of unusual traffic workload or emergency situations, deployments or exercises; sustained efficiency in airfield and air traffic control services as recognized by users of the systems.



Front Row (L to R): MSgt Hendrix Dickens, TSgt Angela Yoho, Col Craig Whitehead, Capt Eric Suicu, TSgt Kelly Whipple, SrA April Handwork

Back Row (L to R): Ms. Mette Eriksen, Mr. Alfred Lindskov, Mr. Astrid Möller, TSgt Micheal Pinski, TSgt Torrye Kirvin, TSgt Tim Van Houten, Mr. Phil Eddy



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



MSgt Douglas Nagy	DP	1 Jun
SSgt Chris Bailey	DO	1 Jun
MSgt Larry Burnett	MAO	7 Jun
SrA Matthew Pease	SF	14 Jun
A1C Virgil Means	AF	14 Jun
Amn William Reese IV	SF	15 Jun
A1C Trevor Hapanionek	SF	20 Jun
Capt Elizabeth Ferrill	MAO	28 Jun

Open Wide:

By MSgt David Craig 12SWS/SG

Three members of the 10th Dental Squadron visited Thule AB, Greenland from 2-10 May to provide dental services to the men and women assigned to that remote location.

Maj Haeoh Choe, TSgt Mary LaCombe and SSgt Daniel Vickers provided dental examinations, teeth cleanings, and oral surgery for about 80% of the active duty personnel assigned. The team provided care valued at nearly \$35,000 and prevented referrals back to the states for care--saving an estimated \$20,000.

The semi-annual visits are critical to maintaining the dental health of the service members stationed at Thule. Routine dental care is not available so these visits ensure all personnel remain world-wide qualified for duty and enhance mission accomplishment.

The team worked extended hours and over the weekend to make sure anyone who needed care could be seen before they returned home. TSgt LaCombe commented that the visit was a real pleasure because the patients actually looked forward to seeing them whereas at home base patients are sometimes reluctant to come in for their exams and cleanings.

Even though the team worked long hours while at

10th Dental Squadron finds willing patients during their semi-annual visit

Thule, they were able to see some of the local sights and experience Thule Trippin' on top of the world. They hiked to the ice cave, North and South Mountains and visited Dundas village, an abandoned Inuit community.

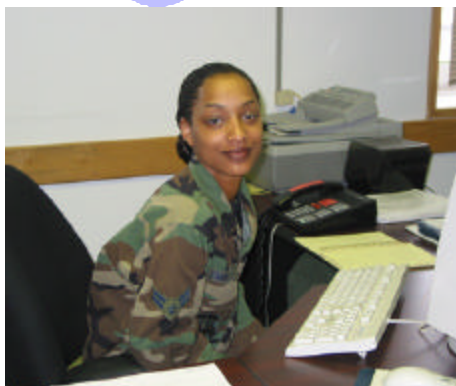
Colonel Craig C. Whitehead, 12 SWS/CC, recognized their hard work and dedication by presenting them with mementos unique to Thule. Something they can remember from their time in the great white north.



MSgt Tom Allen, Maj Haeoh Choe, Col Craig Whitehead, TSgt Mary LaCombe and SSgt Daniel Vickers. Col Whitehead presents the team with a small memento of their service to Thule AB.



ARCTIC SPOTLIGHT



A1C Maisha Simmons

What is your Job title?

Commander Support Staff Rep

How long have you been in the air force?

Almost 2 years

Where is your last and where is your next base?

Offutt AFB, NE and Aviano AB, Italy

What do you like about your job?

I get to meet a lot of different people

What is your favorite movie, and book?

Pretty Woman or any Danielle Steel novel

What are some of your hobbies?

Reading, Writing Poems, Hanging with friends

BIG FUN ON THE LANES:

1st Thule Proud Winter Bowling League Finishes in Style

By SSgt Steve Diegidio 12SWS/APO

For the past year, many people were very productive in keeping themselves busy throughout the winter season here in Thule. Activities became a focal point in keeping one another encouraged to make it through it all. Some chose to be creative in the Hobby Shop with ceramics, others by going to the gym on a regular basis. But for many of us, we chose to go bowling. It may not seem like much, but when you get the right mix of personalities and competition, bowling can be very entertaining. And that was the case with us during the 1st Thule Proud Winter Bowling League. Once things got started, there was no stopping the fun.

The league started with six



SSgt Diegidio hands Mr. John Reece his "official" bowling pin trophy. Everyone knows that these trophies will be coffee table keepsakes for years to come.

teams on 10 October 2001. Commander's Trophy points did not count as part of this event, so some teams were mixed with personnel from different duty sections, creating a unique combination. The league procedures were not quite as ready for all the trials we faced in the beginning weeks, but over time we were able to tackle any situations and press on with the league. Our number one priority was to have fun; and what fun we had. If you ask anyone, of course they will say that the league was long, but they would also say they had a memorable experience. I definitely had a wonderful time developing and participating in the league from start to finish. My encouragement came from many who supported and enjoyed their time every Wednesday evening in the bowling center.

The grand finale, almost seven months from the beginning of the season, was an outstanding banquet at the Top of the World Consolidated Club. With all the dues collected throughout the season, there was enough money to pay for an Italian buffet, complete with red and white wine and cheesecake for

desert. To top it off, guests had a chance to win free t-shirts and bowling pins, another benefit of everyone paying their dues. For those who participated in the 12-game season, each bowler received a bowling pin, attached to a plaque with their name and average score engraved; a good memory of the eventful times at Thule. More than 40 participants received pins at the banquet. All in all, everyone was pleased with the events. A special congratulation goes out to



Security Forces shows off their handsome bowling pins. Looks like they have almost enough pins for a full set.

TSgt John ("the safety dude") Martella, SSgt Amber Foster, and SSgt Stacy LeBlanc as they received cash prizes for their performance during the league. From Martella's 60 pin increase in all his games, to LeBlanc's serpent ball which snaked its way down the lane at an incredible slow rate.

We are all looking forward to another friendly competition season with added changes, thanks to many lessons learned this year. Unfortunately, many of us will not be here for the next season, but we will surely pass on suggested changes and let the newcomers know what a wonderful time they can expect. . . See you next year!

Food for Thought

By SrA Joni Swearson 12SWS/SF

No, this will not be an exercise in ORM. Nor can I take credit for the ideas. Credit goes to a Mr. Charles Sanford when he was Chairman of Bankers Trust. So at the risk of violating some obscure copyright law in some lawyer's desk somewhere, I pass-on what he said.

"From an early age, we are all conditioned by our families, our schools, and virtually every other shaping force in our society to avoid risk. To take risks is inadvisable; to play it safe is the counsel we are accustomed both to receiving and to passing on. In the conventional wisdom, risk is asymmetrical: It has only one side, the bad side. In my experience--and all I presume to offer you today is the observations drawn on my own experience, which is hardly the wisdom of the ages -- in my experience, this conventional view of risk is shortsighted and often simply mistaken.

"My first observation is that successful people understand that risk, properly conceived, is often highly productive rather than something to avoid. They appreciate that risk is an advantage to be used rather than a pitfall to be skirted. Such people understand that taking calculated risks is quite different from being rash.

"This view of risk is not only unorthodox, it is paradoxical -- the first of several paradoxes that I'm going to present to you today. This one might be encapsulated as follows: Playing it safe is dangerous. Far more often than you would realize, the real risk in life turns out to be the refusal to take a risk. In other words, the truly most threatening dangers usually arise when you shrink from confronting what only appear to be the most threatening dangers. What is widely regarded as "playing it safe" turns out not to be safe at all.

"What I'm offering here is not a surefire, guaranteed formula for success. No such formula exists. It never will. If anyone ever tries to sell you one, keep your money in your pocket. For life, above all else, is a risk. I'm not trying to dispel that risk with a bottle of Charlie Sanford's Magic Elixir. I can only arm you with a little food for thought. I do have a few suggestions. You may not wish to follow them. But if you'll think about them, I'll consider our time together most productively spent.

"We all know that modern civilization owes much to the ancient Greeks. As the 20th century draws

to a close, it's difficult to single out a Greek thinker who speaks more directly to us than Heraclitus. "All is flux, nothing stays still," said Heraclitus some 2,500 years ago. "Nothing endures but change."

"Most of us have come to believe that "nothing endures but change," but its consequences still deserve some reflection. Obviously, if change is the fundamental rule of life, then resistance to change is folly -- doomed to defeat. Just as obviously, if change is our constant, then uncertainty is an inescapable part of our lives. Uncertainty is unavoidable. Life is unpredictable. The very essence of life is the unexpected and the unintended, the unanticipated turns that we may metaphorically ascribe to Fate or Destiny of Providence.

"Therefore, unless we wish to be tossed about like so much flotsam on the waves of inescapable change, we must place ourselves squarely in the midst of change. We must learn to ride the current of change rather than to swim against it -- although people who haven't taken the trouble to learn how the world really works will think we're doing exactly the opposite.

"In other words, risk is commonly thought of as going against the current, taking the hard way against high odds. In a world of constant change, however, a world where Heraclitus said we can never step into the same river twice, taking risks is accepting the flow of change of aligning ourselves with it. Remember the first paradox: Risk only looks like reckless endangerment. For those who understand reality, risk is actually the safest way to cope with a changing, uncertain world.

"To take a risk is indeed to plunge into circumstances we cannot absolutely control. But the fact is that the only circumstances in this life that we can absolutely control are so relatively few and so utterly trivial as hardly to be worth the effort. Besides, the absence of absolute control -- which is impossible in any case -- does not entail the absence of any control, or even significant control.

"There, again, is the paradox: In a world of constant change, risk is actually a form of safety, because it accepts the world for what it is. Conventional safety is where the danger really lies, because it denies and resists the world.

"I trust you understand that when I say risk is
(please turn to page 8)

101 Critical Days of

Summer!

By Brig Gen Michael Hamel
HQ USAF/XOS

Memorial Day is our tribute to the sacrifices other Americans have made defending this great nation. It also marks the start of the "101 Critical Days of Summer"--a campaign targeted at the reduction of off-duty mishaps.

The summer season sees many PCS moves, students enjoying a break from school, and for most of us, opportunities for recreational outlet. I'm a firm believer that enjoying leisure activities is healthy and should be encouraged. Tragically though, we seem to witness more lost-time and fatal mishaps--primarily involving automobiles--while pursuing off-duty activities. Excessive speed, operator inattention, alcohol use, and lack of seat belt use were crucial factors in the 38 Air Force deaths over the past eight months--including

one of our own in 14 AF this past October. After enjoying an evening out with friends, followed by a late night drive home, our alcohol-impaired Airman (BAC .11) probably fell asleep at the wheel--at 60 MPH. Her close friend, a passenger in the car, was also killed in this senseless mishap. Five months earlier, another 14 AF member died in a traffic fatality while enroute to her new PCS assignment to Vandenberg AFB. This time a momentary driver distraction, fol-

lowed by a loss of steering control, sent the family car somersaulting onto the road shoulder of I-40 near the California-Nevada state line. The unrestrained driver was crushed as the vehicle rolled over her partially ejected body. Result: The Air Force loses a valuable NCO--but more tragically--two children lose their mother forever!

Deadly consequences are often the result of simple driving errors. Statistically, there is no greater danger we face in our lives than the one encountered while driving our vehicles. It's a risk all of us share. From our mishap investigations, we know that virtually all of these incidences are avoidable. And we're sure that for every fatal event like the ones just described, similar 'close calls' occur hundreds - maybe thousands of times among our troops. Driver distractions, speeding, fatigue, unrestrained occupants, and alcohol impairment

are the leading players - and all are things you control.

Activities in and around water, like swimming or boating, are other

areas over-represented in the summertime injury toll. Drownings typically occur in shallow water near other people, and like many auto-related deaths, often involve alcohol. These senseless losses usually occur off-duty, when individuals are enjoying well-deserved relaxation time.



Everyday, the wings that comprise the 14 AF global workplace demonstrate extraordinary abilities making both work and off-duty environments safer for themselves and others while accomplishing the mission. But I also agree with General Lord's recent assertion that "We are not doing a good enough job at preventing alcohol-related incidents." In echoing Lt Gen Hinson, "We're a team and we have to take responsibility for the welfare of our fellow airmen."

Many of our people have yet to master personal risk management--PRM. I expect every member to apply self-discipline and a sound PRM philosophy in all you do. This is especially true for off-duty activities--reducing danger is as simple as keeping the proper forethought and planning in all your activities.

(continued from page 7)

actually safety, I'm talking about a certain sort of risk. I'm not advising that you leap off tall buildings in the hope that the operation of constant change will reverse the law of gravity in mid-flight. I'm speaking rather of a sort of risk that actually aligns you with the direction of change.

"To be more specific, I believe firmly that the sort of risks that put one in a position to control one's lot in a world of incessant change are the risks that attempt to add something of value to that world. To create value, to focus one's efforts on increasing the fund of that which is worthwhile, involves a sort of risk. And yet, paradoxically, it provides you with the greatest control over a changing world and maximizes your chances to achieve a truly meaningful personal satisfaction.

"There was more to Mr. Sanford's writing but I'll leave it at that. Food for thought.



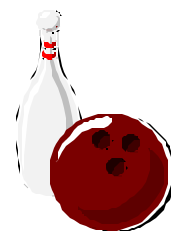
Services Update

Check out all the summer fun!

Hobby Shop:

Jun 01 @ 1200 hrs. How to pour green ware
 Jun 02 @ 1200 hrs. Preparing green ware for firing
 Jun 08 @ 1200 hrs. Get a equipment qualification card
 Jun 09 @ 1200 hrs. Basic corel draw
 Jun 15 @ 1200 hrs. Basic corel draw
 Jun 16 @ 1200 hrs. Printing a plate, mug or t-shirt
 Jun 22 @ 1200 hrs. Print out your pictures on our new photo printer
 Jun 23 @ 1200 hrs. Print out your pictures on our new photo printer
 Jun 29 @ 1200 hrs. How to use overglaze
 Jun 30 @ 1200 hrs. How to use decals

Bowling Center:



June 2 @ 1400 hrs. Scotch Double

June 15 @ 1600 hrs. Cosmic Bowling

June 9 & 23 @ 1400 hrs. King of The Hill

Rec. Center:

June 1 @ 1300 hrs. 5K Fun Run

June 2 @ 1300 hrs. Combined bus tour & south Mtn. Walk

June 8 @ 1400 hrs. 10K North Mtn. Run

June 15 @ 1400 hrs. 12K South Run

June 19 @ 1830 hrs. Mountain Bike Tour # 2

June 22 @ 1400 hrs. Bus Tour to the 3 Glaciers view

June 23 @ 1800 hrs. Midsummer Bonfire at Lake Sparum

June 29 @ 1400 hrs. Triathlon

June 30 @ 1400 hrs. Chess Tournament

June 29 & 30 Birthday Layer Cake

Do You See What I See?

Maybe it is too much time in the sun, but recently some members of Thule AB have been seeing some rather odd things out in nature. Do you see what they've seen?

Could the Grinch of Stole Christmas be immortalized on our very own Mt. Dundas? Maybe this is like a Dr. Seuss Mt. Rushmore.

What could bring the First Shirt rushing into the Finance office? Could it be a frozen puddle in the shape of Greenland? Somebody get the Shirt off this island — and quickly.



Crawlberg? Have we discovered a new form of life here in Greenland? No one can be sure, but it does look like this ice is on the move. Maybe it is trying to get out of the sun...

Atop Dundas, some climbers thought this iceberg had an uncanny resemblance to the U.S.S. Minnow. Perhaps this is where the fated ship ended up after its three hour tour.



Disclaimer

Opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors to this paper and are not to be considered an official expression by the 12th Space Warning Squadron, Department of the Air Force, Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, or the Department of Defense.

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Deadline for submissions for next issue is 25 June 2002.